

A1  
cont. Ca, Ce, Cr, Dy, Eu, Ga, [H] Hf, In, K, La, Mn, N, Nb, Ni, Pb, Pd[, S], Si[, Sb], Sn, Ya[,  
Te] Ti, V, W, Yb, Zn, and Zr.

SUB  
C2  
31. (Amended) A method of recording/erasing/reproducing an optical information,  
comprising the steps of: providing an optical information recording medium comprising a  
recording layer generating a reversible phase-change which can be optically detected according  
to an irradiation of an energy beam, a barrier layer, and a protective layer; recording a signal  
to said recording layer by irradiating said recording layer with a modulated laser beam erasing  
a signal recorded on said recording layer by irradiating said recording layer with a laser beam  
having a predetermined power level; reproducing a signal recorded on said recording layer by  
irradiating a laser beam to said recording layer and detecting a light strength of a reflection  
light or a transmitted light from said recording layer; wherein said barrier layer is formed  
between said protective layer and said recording layer and in contact with said protective layer  
and said recording layer in contact with said protective layer and said recording layer, and  
includes either one of GeN and GeNO and at least one element selected from the group  
consisting of Al, B, Ba, Bi, C, Ca, Ce, Cr, Dy, Eu, Ga, [H] Hf, In, K, La, Mn, N, Nb, Ni,  
Pb, Pd[, S], Si[, Sb], Sn, Ta[, Te], Ti V, W, Yb, Zn, and Zr.

Please cancel claims 32-49.

In claim 53, line 3, after "containing" please insert --layer--.

Please cancel claims 65-73.

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### Remarks

Favorable reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 1, 31, and 53 have been amended. Claims 1 and 31 have been amended to remove N, Sb, Te, and S from the recited list of elements. "H" has been corrected to "Hf". No new matter has been entered. Claims 32-49 and 65-73 have been cancelled. Claims 1-31, 50-64, and 74 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-31, 50-64 and 74 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been rejected for doubly reciting N. Claims 1 and 31 have been amended to remove N from the list of elements included in the barrier layer.